Excise Duty on Readymade Garments

2455. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of excise duty collected on branded and non-branded readymade garments, separately in the current financial year *i.e.* 2001-2002;

(b) whether it is a fact that the honest non-branded readymade manufacturers have closed down their units due to the burden of 16 per cent Excise duty;

(c) if so, whether Government would reconsider the imposition of Excise duty on non-branded readymade garments; and

(d) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The total amount of excise duty collected on branded and non-branded readymade garments during the financial year 2001-2002 is Rs. 160.10 crore and Rs. 10.53 crore respectively. The figures are provisional.

(b) As per information available no garment unit has closed down solely on account of the burden of Excise duty.

(c) and (d) Do not arise, in view of reply to part (b) above.

Implementation of ERC Recommendations

2456. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fresh instructions were issued in early December, 2001, to various Ministries/Departments to implement scrupulously by 31.12.2001 the recommendations of the Expenditure Reforms Commission on downsizing the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the specific results achieved towards the plan to downsize the Government and to curtail establishment related expenditure;

(d) whether it is a fact as reported in the Hindustan Times dated

8.12.2001, that several new posts at various levels have been created consequent to further splitting of certain Ministries into different Departments recently; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) Instructions were issued in November, 2001 to the Union Ministers at the level of Hon'ble Prime Minister to implement the recommendations of ERC by 31.12.2001 and to improve the quality of expenditure by curtailing non-plan revenue expenditure and enhancing developmental expenditure. So far around 12,200 posts have been identified for abolition/already abolished. It is the constant endevour of the Government to curtail non-plan non-developmental expenditure and in this regard instructions are issued from time to time to all the Ministries/Departments of the Government of India.

(d) and (e) Functions of the Government are vast and everchanging and posts are required to be created as and when justified. Accordingly certain posts have been created in the new Departments namely, Department of Development of North Eastern Region and Department of Border Management.

Small Co-operative banks in Andhra Pradesh

2457. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a series of small co-operative banks in Andhra Pradesh is on the verge of collapse;

(d) if so, the steps taken to set right the situation to install confidence in the depositors;

(c) whether Government have conducted any study to know the status of such small co-operative and other private banks all over the country;